

Northampton Policing Review Commission
Policies and Services Subcommittee Agenda
Tuesday December 29, 2020
7PM-8:30PM
Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

Video conference:

<https://zoom.us/j/93137471859?pwd=SUtWb2RWbGw2SkRGSU8rVktUWWFLUT09>

Meeting ID: 931 3747 1859 **Passcode:** 672699

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866 US

1. Call to Order by meeting chair, Nick Fleisher
 - a. Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Approval of Minutes
2. Complete Review of 7 identified police services by assigned Commission Members.
(Housing and Drone Surveillance)
Additional comments on previous reports?
 - School Resource Officers - Nnamdi
 - Domestic Violence - Cynthia
 - Mental Health - Nick
 - Interactions with Houseless Individuals – Nick (via Alternatives)
 - Rape and Assault Response - Elizabeth
 - Traffic Enforcement - David
 - Drone Surveillance - Elizabeth
3. Review of interim report process and initial draft of report. Finalize strategy for completing report (based on discussion at Full Commission meeting)
4. Consideration of direct meeting with the Northampton Police Chief
5. New Business
6. Proposed Agenda for next meeting
7. Adjourn

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nick Fleisher at 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Nick Fleisher	present
David Hoose	present
Elizabeth Barajas-Roman	not present
Nnamdi Pole	present
Cynthia Suopis	present

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Nick Fleisher made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record. The recording will be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

2. Complete Review of 7 identified police services by assigned Commission Members

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said she's contacted two employees listed on the NPD website who work in partnership with the Center for Women and Community at Umass, but that she feels concerned because they haven't responded yet. She said she'd like to know more about the grant and the employees' time as it sounds like they're doing what the committee has been categorizing as nonpolice" work and would be helpful to know more. She said she's also interested in the 159 hours of training officers have received in regards to domestic violence. She said she'd like to know what those 159 hours of training were. She said she contacted Safe Passage to get their sense of their role on domestic violence, in partnership with the NPD, and noted they have not responded yet either.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said it would be helpful to know about the absence of training. He wondered whether no one responded because Commissioner Cynthia Suopis went through a nonemergency channel.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said the employees might have the holiday vacation off and doesn't want to assume. She said she'll keep contacting the center. She said she wants to give everyone the benefit of the doubt.

3. Review of interim report process and initial draft of report. Finalize strategy for completing report (based on discussion at Full Commission meeting)

Commissioner Nick Fleisher mentioned Commissioner Alex Jarrett wrote about domestic violence and wanted to make sure knew about it and was able to read it in order to understand what the Alternatives committee is working on and how she can contribute. He

said he thinks it's essential to find out exactly what these organizations think their relationship with the police is.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher said clarifying this subcommittee's role and focus is important, as well as clarifying the expectations for the interim report. He wondered what the subcommissioners' takeaways were from the full commission meeting.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said the subcommittees' role has been defining the status quo, starting with generating questions from the website.

Commissioner David Hoose said the subcommittee's work is easy to summarize because it's a traditional police department. He said this subcommittee's charge was to look at the NPD and to state broadly things that almost everyone can agree on. He said, for example: "the vast majority of the commission is of the mind that many of the functions of the NPD can be done as well or better by unarmed city employees or in some cases by private entities. These are the things we're looking at at this time".

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said it might be worth spelling out what a traditional police department is with the particulars of Northampton.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher wondered what kind of interim report the subcommittee would like to submit, how extensive it should be, and how in depth the committee wants to go, while the commission is still in the process of deciding on many of these topics. He said he thinks it makes sense to narrow the scope for the interim report.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said he suggests including specifics about the NPD's school officer, for example, in order to share particular issues that are happening in Northampton that would need to be addressed.

Commissioner David Hoose said he thinks the preliminary report process should look like talking about topics at the commission meetings, and for Co-chair Dan Cannity to delegate two people to write a fairly brief drafted report based on the consensus the commission can reach on broad things, for example, police violence against people of color. He said he thinks the preliminary reporting charge is to identify broad themes the commission can all agree on. He said there is enough evidence to suggest reducing the footprint of armed people in the community.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said the interim report should speak to the variety of views the commissioners have.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said she's focused on trying to come up with a recommendation that can actually be done. She said she's not looking for consensus on the report, because the commission hasn't voted on anything yet. She said she's looking for a 1-2 page general report about what the subcommittee has been doing, and some of the things subcommittee members feel concerned about.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher said he thinks it's important to look at what the police have done to try to shift their paradigm. He said he would like to have the police chief speak to the subcommittee so it can hear what she thinks the NPD needs.

Commissioner David Hoose said one service that falls within the subcommittee's mandate that it hasn't looked at yet is the 911 service. He said 911 operators would have to be much better trained to divert calls. He said what we need armed officers for is much less than what they're doing now. He said there is value in getting officers out of things they're not

the best trained to do. He said many people of color are afraid of the police and for that reason alone we should have fewer police officers responding to calls that can be handled by unarmed, non confrontational public servants.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said she's hoping the subcommittee can get back to the preliminary report. She said she thinks the subcommittee should talk about what they've been doing.

Commissioner David Hoose agreed with Commissioner Cynthia Suopis and said they've already written a brief report the subcommittee could utilize.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said he could take a look at the minutes from the subcommittee meetings and make a list of major themes for an introductory paragraph that talks about the arc of the meetings.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher asked Cynthia Suopis to request more detail on Domestic Violence Training in the NPD through Noa Coffey-Moore (Administrative Assistant).

The commissioners briefly discussed the issue of NPD complaints that was originally tabled from earlier.

4. Consideration of direct meeting with the Northampton Police Chief

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said he's in favor but that the commissioners should come up with specific questions.

Commissioner David Hoose agreed with Commissioner Nnamdi Pole

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said she feels in favor if the Chief of Police comes during a subcommittee meeting with specific questions.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Proposed Agenda for next meeting

Commissioner Nick Fleisher asked the commissioners what should be included on the next agenda and whether anyone would like to reach out to Commissioner Elizabeth as he feels she's an important part of this process.

Commissioner David Hoose said Commissioner Elizabeth Barajas-Roman emailed during the meeting to apologize for her absence.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Nick Fleisher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. The motion adjourn is passed unanimously.